

Message Text

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FOR US DEL LOS

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TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: TRANSLATION OF FRENCH NOTE VERBALE OF 24 MARCH 1978

REF: STATE 116978

1. PER REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION
OF FRENCH NOTE VERBALE OF 24 MARCH 1978:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

-- THE EMBASSY OF FRANCE PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND HAS THE HONOR OF COMMUNICATING THE
FOLLOWING:

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-- IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF CATASTROPHES SUCH
AS THAT WHICH AT THE PRESENT TIME IS CAUSING DAMAGE TO ITS
COASTS, FRANCE HAS BEEN FORCED TO TAKE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF
PRECAUTIONS.

--1. IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF ARTICLE 1 OF THE INTER-
NATIONAL CONVENTION RELATING TO INTERVENTION ON THE HIGH

SEAS IN CASES OF ACCIDENTS WHICH RESULT IN OR MAY LEAD TO POLLUTION BY HYDROCARBONS, A CONVENTION WHICH ENTERED INTO FORCE AS OF MARCH 1975, THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE SHALL

HENCEFORTH REQUIRE ALL OIL TANKERS TO NOTIFY (THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES) IMMEDIATELY OF ANY DAMAGE OR ACCIDENT WHICH TAKES PLACE WITHIN 50 NAUTICAL MILES OF FRENCH COASTS. THE TERM "DAMAGE" ENTAILS EITHER AN INCIDENT WHICH MAY RESULT IN A RISK OF POLLUTION OR AN INCIDENT WHICH RENDERES THE SHIP NON-MANEUVARABLE AND THEREFORE GIVES RISE TO THE SAME CONSEQUENCES.

--2. FURTHERMORE, SHIPS IN THIS CATEGORY SHALL BE REQUIRED TO NOTIFY (THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES) OF THEIR POSITION, ROUTE AND CARGO AS SOON AS THEY ENTER FRENCH TERRITORIAL WATERS.

-- THESE MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN DUE TO THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE FRENCH ENVIRONMENT FROM DAMAGE WHICH, IF RECURRENT, COULD RESULT IN IRREVERSIBLE HARM. FRANCE DOES NOT FIND THESE MEASURES INCONSISTENT WITH HER SUPPORT OF AND COMMITMENT TO THE RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE IN TERRITORIAL WATERS, A PRINCIPLE WHICH SHE HAS ALWAYS UPHELD.

-- THE EMBASSY OF FRANCE AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE ASSURANCES OF ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

END TEXT.

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